

Appln. No. 10/024,969

Attorney Docket No. 10541-598

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said seal is one-piece.
3. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said seal is plastic.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein each of said first and second members have respective diameters of approximately a same respective value, and each of said first and second members respective splined portions have a respective length of about three times said value of said respective diameter of said first member.
6. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are fit around at least a part of the respective splined portions of said first and second members utilizing initial preload force.
- 7-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said spring is a garter-ring.
- 10-11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said first splined inner-portion of said seal is air-tightly fit around at least a part of the splined

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portion of said first member, and the second splined inner-portion of said seal is air-tightly fit around at least a part of the splined portion of said second member.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said first and second members of said shaft and said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are generally cylindrical.

15. (Previously presented) A seal for a double-tube splined shaft, said seal comprising:

a first splined inner-portion having a first diameter;

a second splined inner-portion having a second diameter, wherein said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are each adapted to be slidably fitted around at least a part of splined portions of separate respective tubes of a double-tube telescopically resident splined shaft; and

a spring disposed within said seal proximate to the first splined inner-portion, wherein said seal is molded from a relatively soft, compliant material such that the spring resiliently biases the first splined inner-portion radially inwardly for engagement with the splined portions of the shaft.

16. (Previously presented): The seal of claim 15 wherein said seal is one-piece.

17. (Previously presented): The seal of claim 15 wherein said seal is plastic.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented): The seal of claim 15 further comprising a clamp secured around one of said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal.

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21. (Previously presented): The seal of claim 15 wherein said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are generally cylindrical.

22-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said first member is adapted to couple with a transmission of the vehicle, and said second member is adapted to couple with a differential of the vehicle.

27. (Previously presented) A driveshaft comprising:

a shaft including first and second members each having splined portions and end portions, said second member being telescopically resident within said first member, said splined portion of said first member cooperating with said splined portion of said second member thereby allowing said first and second members to cooperatively form the shaft;

a seal molded from a relatively soft, compliant material, said seal including an outer surface, an inner surface, a bottom portion, and a top portion, wherein said inner surface includes a first splined inner-portion, a second splined inner-portion, and an intermediate section, wherein said first splined inner-portion and said second splined inner-portion are substantially parallel with each other;

wherein said first splined inner-portion is located proximal to said bottom portion and adapted to couple with said first member splined portion, said second splined inner-portion is located proximal to said top portion and adapted to couple with said second member splined portion, and said intermediate section is located in between said first splined inner-portion and said second splined inner-portion and adapted to couple with said first member end portion; and

a spring molded within said first splined inner-portion of said seal, wherein said spring resiliently radially biases said first splined inner-portion of said seal into engagement with said splined portion of said first member.

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28. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein said second splined inner-portion is defined by an annular lip, said annular lip located substantially proximal to an axial end of said seal.

29. (Previously presented): The driveshaft of claim 28 wherein said annular lip is adjacent to said first member.

30. (Currently amended): [[The driveshaft of claim 27 wherein]] A driveshaft comprising:

a shaft including first and second members each having splined portions and end portions, said second member being telescopically resident within said first member, said splined portion of said first member cooperating with said splined portion of said second member thereby allowing said first and second members to cooperatively form the shaft;

a seal molded from a relatively soft, compliant material, said seal including an outer surface, an inner surface, a bottom portion, and a top portion, wherein said inner surface includes a first splined inner-portion, a second splined inner-portion, and an intermediate section, said first splined inner-portion and said second splined inner-portion are substantially parallel with each other, said first splined inner-portion is located proximal to said bottom portion and adapted to couple with said first member splined portion, said second splined inner-portion is located proximal to said top portion and adapted to couple with said second member splined portion, said intermediate section is located in between said first splined inner-portion and said second splined inner-portion and adapted to couple with said first member end portion, and said first splined inner-portion [,] and said second splined inner-portion include inwardly-projecting splines extending in the axial direction along said inner surface of said seal; and

a spring molded within said first splined inner-portion of said seal, wherein said spring resiliently radially biases said first splined inner-portion of said seal into engagement with said splined portion of said first member.

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31. (Currently amended): [[The seal of claim 15]] A seal for a double-tube splined shaft, said seal comprising:

a first splined inner-portion having a first diameter;

a second splined inner-portion having a second diameter, wherein said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are each adapted to be slidably fitted around at least a part of splined portions of separate respective tubes of a double-tube telescopically resident splined shaft; and

a spring disposed within said seal proximate to the first splined inner-portion, wherein said seal is molded from a relatively soft, compliant material such that the spring resiliently biases the first splined inner-portion radially inwardly for engagement with the splined portions of the shaft, and wherein said first splined inner-portion [[,]] and said second splined inner-portion include inwardly-projecting splines extending in the axial direction of said seal.

32. (Previously presented): The seal of claim 15 wherein said first diameter of said first splined inner-portion of said seal is larger than said second diameter of said second splined inner-portion of said seal.

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